

# Washington State Damage Reporting

## Q3 2016 DIRT Analysis July - Sept. 2016

### Introduction

This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the **third quarter of 2016**. To generate the most accurate analysis of damage events, it is important that damages are reported to DIRT within the 45 day timeframe set forth in the statute. Any damages occurring during that time period which were submitted after 45 days will not be included in the report analysis.

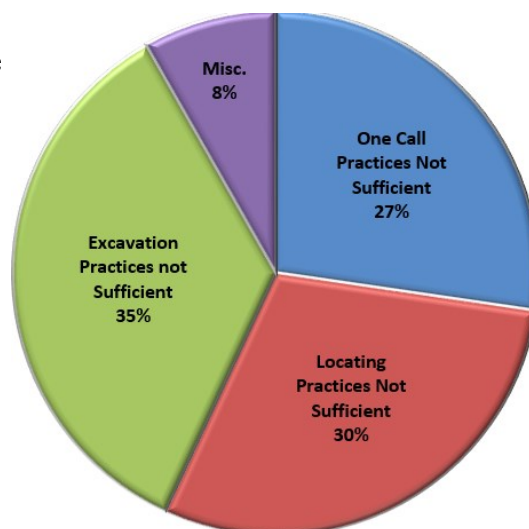
### Trends

A total of **749** damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the third quarter of 2016. This number is significant, as it represents a **decrease of 269** reports, when compared to the same time period one year ago. Even more telling is that **9,637 more** locate requests were made in the third quarter of 2016, over the third quarter of 2015. We believe this statistic is largely due to a committed effort by stakeholders throughout the state who have promoted the importance of calling 811, and using safe excavating practices, at many events and through advertising campaigns. The numbers above show that this hard work and the resources involved have paid off in a big way!

### Root Cause

**Excavation Practices Not Sufficient** accounted for 35 percent of damages this quarter, with 118 caused by failure to use hand tools where required, and 62 stating that excavation practices were not sufficient. **Locating Practices Not Sufficient** has improved in percentage over last quarter and represents 30 percent of damages. Facility not located or marked was identified as the reason for damage on 111 reports, and 78 reports state the facility marking or location was not sufficient. **One Call Practices Not Sufficient** represents 27 percent, with 180 reports stating the root cause for the damage was due to “no notification made to one-call center.” As identified below, there were actually 326 damage reports listing “**no locate request**” was made, yet on 146 reports the person selected another root cause for damage. **The Miscellaneous** category initially accounted for 15 percent, however, with 53 reports citing “**data not collected**” as a root cause, we removed those reports from this portion of the analysis. This provides a more accurate visual of the percentage of the damage by root cause. This also gives a better idea of where to focus outreach and education. After removing the 53 reports, the **Miscellaneous** category makes up eight percent, and includes 28 damage reports which identified the root cause as “other.”

### Damage by Root Cause



### LOCATE REQUESTS FOR THE 749 DAMAGE REPORTS RECEIVED IN Q3 2016:

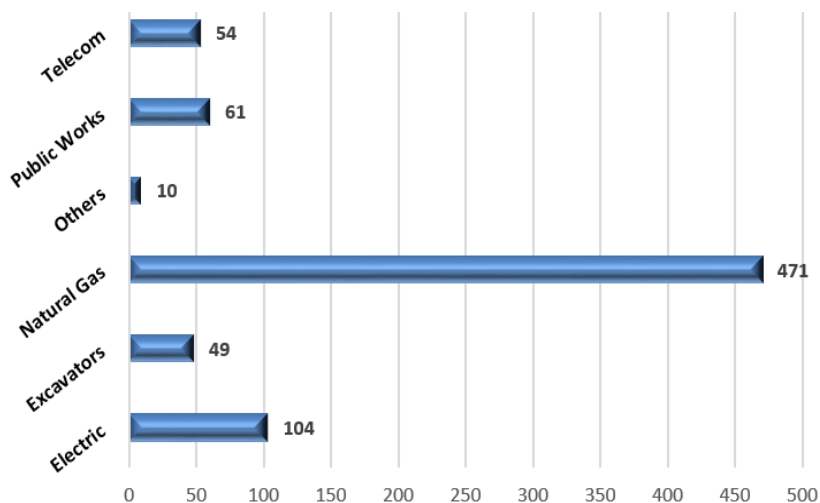
YES: 423 56%

NO: 326 44%

The information received through root causes in DIRT reporting is not intended to be used for punitive purposes. The statistics provide information about damages, which everyone can use to help make the system better and to identify needs or opportunities to develop better education and outreach.

## Reporting Stakeholders

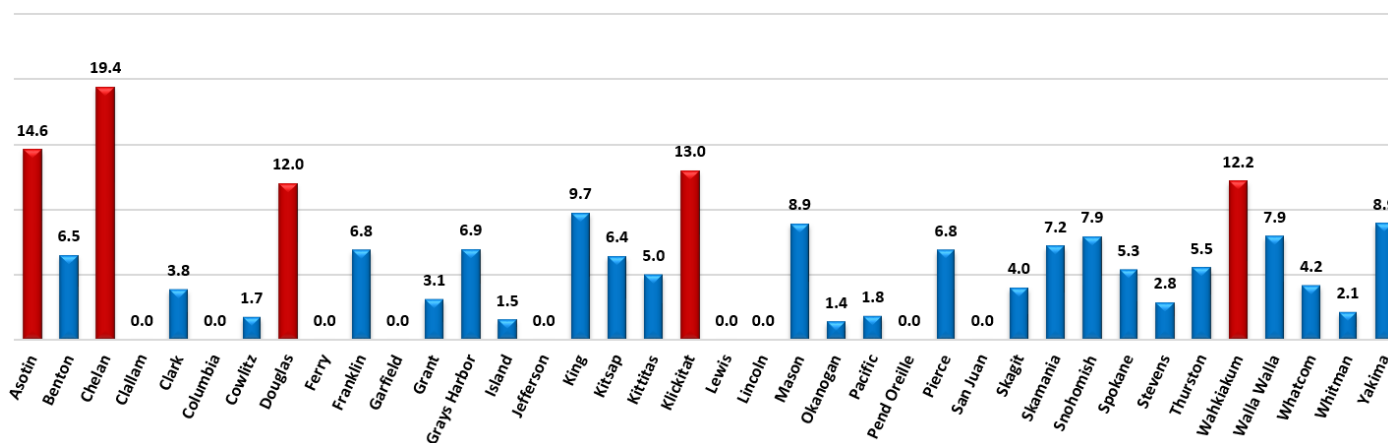
**Natural gas** stakeholders reported 471 damage reports, accounting for 63 percent of the reports received. Of those reports, 60 were related to damage to other utilities. **Electric** companies submitted 104 reports for 16 percent, **Telecommunications** companies submitted 92 reports, for 14 percent, and **Public Works** submitted 61 reports for six percent of the reports received, and 49 reports were received from **Excavators**. We want to continue to put emphasis on the importance of DIRT reporting to all excavators who damage facilities, per **RCW 19.122.053**. Submitting a damage report is also each party's opportunity to tell their side of the story.



## Damage Events by County

The chart below identifies damage events by county per 1,000 locate requests. The counties that have more than 10.0 damages per 1,000 locate requests have been highlighted in red to help identify counties that may need additional outreach and or education. However, we are also aware that using this method can sometimes make damages look worse in smaller populated counties. For instance Wahkiakum's 12.2 is the result of one damage event and 82 locate requests.

Damages by County per 1,000 Locate Requests



## Education

Please take advantage of opportunities to educate others about the Call Before You Dig and safe digging practices. You can also provide the commission's contact information to anyone who is unaware of the requirements in RCW 19.122, or in need of information about damage reporting. If your organization would like to arrange a presentation by the commission, or if you have questions about this report or damage reporting in general, contact [Lynda Holloway](#).